

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

CLAIM 1 (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A connecting apparatus for a control cable having an inner wire that slides within an outer casing comprising:

a cable sleeve adapted to receive the outer casing of the control cable;

a guide having a first end portion and a second end portion, wherein the guide supports the cable sleeve so that the cable sleeve moves toward the first end portion and the second end portion;

wherein the first end portion of the guide includes a mounting portion for fixing the guide to a mounting member;

a biasing device for biasing the cable sleeve toward the second end portion of the guide;

wherein the biasing device comprises a coil spring comprising a plurality of coils disposed between the guide and the cable sleeve;

wherein the spring surrounds a portion of the outer casing of the control cable; and

wherein the cable sleeve includes a spring sleeve that forms an annular space with itself dimensioned to receive a plurality of complete coils of the spring therein, and wherein ~~at least a portion~~ a plurality of complete coils of the spring is are disposed in the annular space.

CLAIMS 2-3 (CANCELED).

CLAIM 4 (ORIGINAL): The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the second end portion of the guide is adapted to receive the outer casing of the control cable therein.

CLAIM 5 (ORIGINAL): The apparatus according to claim 4 wherein the cable sleeve is disposed within the guide, and further comprising a lid disposed at the second end portion of the guide for retaining the cable sleeve within the guide.

CLAIM 6 (CANCELED).

CLAIM 7 (ORIGINAL): The apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising a brake lever bracket, wherein the first end portion of the guide is mounted to the brake lever bracket.

CLAIM 8 (ORIGINAL): The apparatus according to claim 7 further comprising a brake lever pivotably connected to the brake lever bracket.

CLAIM 9 (ORIGINAL): The apparatus according to claim 8 wherein the second end portion of the guide is adapted to receive the outer casing of the control cable therein.

CLAIM 10 (ORIGINAL): The apparatus according to claim 9 wherein the cable sleeve is disposed within the guide, and further comprising a lid disposed at the second end portion of the guide for retaining the cable sleeve within the guide.

CLAIM 11 (CANCELED).

CLAIM 12 (ORIGINAL): The apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising a bellows disposed at the second end portion of the guide, wherein the bellows is adapted to sealingly engage the outer casing of the control cable.

CLAIMS 13-15 (CANCELED).

CLAIM 16 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): A connecting apparatus for a first control cable having a first inner wire that slides within a first outer casing and a second outer casing, and a second control cable having a second inner wire that slides within a third outer casing and a fourth outer casing, the apparatus comprising:

a bracket including:

- a first support for supporting the first outer casing;
- a second support for supporting the second outer casing;
- a third support for supporting the third outer casing; and
- a fourth support for supporting the fourth outer casing;

a connecting member for connecting a portion of the first inner wire located between the first outer casing and the second outer casing to a portion of the second inner wire disposed between the third outer casing and the fourth outer casing, wherein the connector moves together with the first inner wire and the second inner wire; and

play confirmation means that allows a play of at least one of the first outer casing, the second outer casing, the third outer casing and the fourth outer casing to be visually confirmed.

CLAIM 17 (ORIGINAL): The apparatus according to claim 16 wherein the first support and the third support are disposed at a first end portion of the bracket, wherein the second support and the fourth support are disposed at an opposite second end portion of the bracket, and further comprising a biasing device for biasing the connecting member toward the second end portion of the bracket.

CLAIM 18 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The apparatus according to claim 16 further comprising a bracket casing mounted to the bracket, wherein the play confirmation means allows the play of the at least one of the first outer casing, the second outer casing, the third outer casing and the fourth outer casing to be visually confirmed based on a position of the at least one of the first outer casing, the second outer casing, the third outer casing and the fourth outer casing relative to the bracket casing.

CLAIM 19 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 18 wherein the second support and the fourth support are disposed inside the bracket casing, wherein the play confirmation means allows the positions of the second outer casing and the fourth outer casing to be visually confirmed based on the positions of the second outer casing and the fourth outer casing relative to the bracket casing, and wherein the bracket casing includes a window for viewing the positions of the second outer casing and the fourth outer casing.

CLAIM 20 (ORIGINAL): The apparatus according to claim 19 wherein the window includes indicia for indicating the positions of the second outer casing and the fourth outer casing.

CLAIMS 21-25 (CANCELED).

CLAIM 26 (CANCELED).

CLAIM 27 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the first end portion of the guide includes a threaded outer peripheral surface for attaching the guide to a brake lever bracket.

CLAIM 28 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the mounting portion includes a threaded surface for fixing the guide to the mounting member.

CLAIM 29 (NEW): The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein substantially all of the plurality of coils of the spring are disposed in the annular space when the cable sleeve is disposed in close proximity to the first end portion of the guide.